

REMARKS

The applicants have studied the Office Action dated February 13, 2002 and the response filed May 13, 2002, and have made supplemental amendments to the claims. It is submitted that the application, as amended, is now in condition for allowance. By virtue of this amendment, claims 35-55, 65-72 and 86-145 are pending, claims 1-34, 56-64, 73-85 and 146 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Remarks Regarding the Supplemental Interview:

The applicants wish to thank the Examiner for her time in the supplemental interview on June 10, 2002 where this case and the pending corresponding continuation application 09/466,006 were discussed. As was discussed and agreed to, the applicants have cancelled claims 1-34, 56-64, 73-85 and 146 to minimize the issues remaining in this case. It is hoped that the cancellation of these claims will remove the restriction issue and place this case in condition for allowance.

In summary, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-34, 56-64, 73-85 would be allowable over the prior art based on the new limitations added by the previous amendment. However, there was the possibility of a restriction, and this might hold up issuance of the allowable claims. Therefore, to advance the prosecution of this case, applicants have copied the canceled claims over to the pending corresponding continuation application 09/466,006, which contains claims reciting subject matter that is complementary to the canceled claims. Thus, this amendment moves both cases towards allowance.

All arguments made in the previous amendment related to the still pending claims are maintained and incorporated herein by reference. Applicants respectfully maintain that no issue of restriction between the remaining claims should exist, since this was not raised at the initial interview. If the Examiner feels that a restriction issue still exists, the Examiner is asked to call the undersigned to discuss the restriction issue and potential Examiner amendments.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application and all of the claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (818) 576-5313 should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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